

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TOKYO 01048 210453Z
ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-11 H-02 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 OMB-01 PM-05 OES-07 SP-02 STR-06
TRSE-00 ACDA-12 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
IO-14 NRC-07 EUR-12 /138 W
-----096411 210459Z /14

O 210428Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4537

UNCLAS TOKYO 1048

FOR DR. JOSEPH NYE, T

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, PARM, JA
SUBJECT: ASAHI EVENING NEWS EDITORIAL ON INFCE

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SIGNED EDITORIAL APPEARING IN
JANUARY 20 EDITION OF ASAHI EVENING NEWS. TITLE OF EDITORIAL
IS QTE THE INFCE PROGRAM AND JAPAN UNQTE. AUTHOR IS JUNNOSUKE
KISHIDA, CHIEF EDITORIAL WRITER OF ASAHI SHIMBUN.

2. BEGIN TEXT. WORK HAS BEGUN IN EARNEST ON THE INTERNATIONAL
NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE EVALUATION (INFCE) PROGRAM WHICH WAS
LAUNCHED LAST OCTOBER AT AN INAUGURAL MEETING IN WASHINGTON.

THE DECISION TO PUSH THE INFCE PROGRAM WAS REACHED
WHEN THE LONDON ECONOMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN MAY OF THE
LEADING INDUSTRIAL POWERS AT THE BEHEST OF PRESIDENT JIMMY
CARTER CALLED FOR MEASURES TO CHECK THE INTERNATIONAL
PROLIFERATION OF PLUTONIUM. IN THE PREVIOUS MONTH, IN
APRIL, CARTER HAD ANNOUNCED NEW U.S. NUCLEAR ENERGY POLICIES,
INCLUDING THE INDEFINITE SUSPENSION OF COMMERCIAL
REPROCESSING OF NUCLEAR FUEL, AND THE PURPOSE OF THE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TOKYO 01048 210453Z

INFCE PROGRAM IS TO STUDY THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE
QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THESE POLICIES CAN AND SHOULD BE
APPLIED MORE BROADLY ON AN INTERNATIONAL SCALE.

FOLLOWING THE INAUGURAL MEETING, EIGHT WORKING
PARTIES BEGAN THE TASK OF STUDY. THE TECHNICAL
COORDINATING COMMITTEE, WHICH WILL CORRELATE THE STUDIES

OF THE EIGHT WORKING PARTIES, HELD ITS FIRST MEETING IN DECEMBER. THE FOURTH WORKING PARTY (REPROCESSING, PLUTONIUM, RECYCLING), OF WHICH JAPAN IS COCHAIRMAN WITH BRITAIN, IS HOLDING ITS SECOND MEETING IN THE LATTER PART OF JANUARY.

THE WORK OF THE INFCE PROGRAM WILL TAKE TWO YEARS AND THE FINDINGS WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE CONCLUDING GENERAL MEETING. PLEDGES HAVE BEEN MADE THAT THE INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATING NATIONS IN THE PROGRAM ARE UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO ACCEPT AND OBSERVE THE FINDINGS. HOWEVER, JAPAN, BECAUSE OF ITS CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE U.S., WHICH ORIGINALLY PROPOSED THE INFCE PROGRAM, IS IN A POSITION IN WHICH IT WILL HAVE TO EXPECT THAT THE FINDINGS WILL HAVE CONSIDERABLE BINDING POWER ON ITS NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAM. IT IS CERTAIN THAT THE TECHNICAL STUDIES UNDER THE INFCE PROGRAM OF THE DUAL PROBLEMS OF CHECKING THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY AND THE PEACEFUL USE OF ATOMIC ENERGY WILL HAVE A PROFOUND EFFECT ON JAPAN'S NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAM.

THERE ARE AT LEAST THREE IMPORTANT PROBLEMS FOR JAPAN.

FIRSTLY, FUTURE PLANS FOR OPERATING THE REPROCESSING FACILITY AT TOKAI MURA WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE INFCE FINDINGS. UNDER THE JOINT DECISION REACHED BY JAPAN AND UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 TOKYO 01048 210453Z

THE U.S. LAST SEPTEMBER, THE TOKAI MURA FACILITY WILL OPERATE PROVISIONALLY FOR TWO YEARS ALONG THE LINES OF THE JAPANESE PLANS. AS TO WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THAT, JAPAN AND THE U.S., WHILE WAITING FOR THE INFCE FINDINGS, ARE TO RECONFER ON THE MATTER. FUTURE OPERATIONS OF THE FACILITY MAY VERY WELL BE RESTRICTED BY THE INFCE FINDINGS. THE FACT IS THAT IN THE INFCE PROGRAM, JAPAN, SEEING THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS PROBLEM, MOVED TO ACCEPT THE POST OF COCHAIRMAN OF THE FOURTH WORKING PARTY.

SECONDLY, THE STUDY FINDINGS OF THE SECOND WORKING PARTY (ENRICHMENT CAPACITY) WILL AFFECT THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT JAPAN CAN BUILD A URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANT. JAPAN IS NOW BUILDING AT NINGYO PASS A URANIUM ENRICHMENT PILOT PLANT. THE EXPECTATION AT THE PRESENT JUNCTURE IS THAT IT WILL BE COMPLETED IN 1981. THE INFCE FINDINGS SHOULD BE OUT BY THEN, AND THE QUESTION HERE IS WHETHER JAPAN WILL BE TREATED AS A NATIONAL ALREADY HAVING AN ENRICHMENT PLANT. IF THE FINDINGS ARE THAT ONLY NATIONS WHICH ARE ALREADY OPERATING ENRICHMENT PLANTS SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO CONTINUE IN THIS FIELD, JAPAN WILL BE PLACED IN A DIFFICULT POSITION. IT MIGHT BE WISE TO

STEP UP THE PACE OF CONSTRUCTION ON THE NINGYO PASS
PLANT.

THIRDLY, SUCH URANIUM PRODUCING COUNTRIES AS
CANADA AND AUSTRALIA MAY, WHILE WAITING FOR THE INFCE
FINDINGS, IMPOSE STIFFER RESTRICTIONS ON THE SUPPLY OF
URANIUM REACTOR FUEL. CANADA HAS JUST REACHED A COMPRO-
MISE AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN ON THE SUPPLY OF URANIUM BUT WHAT
CANADA DOES LATER WILL LIKELY BE IN LINE WITH THE INFCE
FINDINGS. AUSTRALIA IS THINKING ALONG THE SAME LINES.
SINCE A STEADY, ASSURED SUPPLY OF URANIUM IS INDISPENS-
ABLE FOR JAPAN, IT MUST FOLLOW WITH THE GREATEST
INTEREST THE COURSE OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE INFCE STUDIES.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 TOKYO 01048 210453Z

IN VIEW OF THESE MATTERS, IT IS CLEAR THAT
JAPAN WILL HAVE TO SHOW AN EVEN MORE ACTIVE CONCERN IN
THE WORK OF THE INFCE PROGRAM AND AT THE SAME TIME ADOPT
A POSITION OF GREAT CAUTION. END TEXT.

3. ESSENTIALLY SAME EDITORIAL APPEARED TWO DAYS
EARLIER IN VERNACULAR ASAHI SHIMBUN, LARGEST NEWSPAPER
IN WORLD. KISHIDA IS ALSO ONE OF JAPAN'S MOST PROMINENT
SCIENCE WRITERS. DR. NYE WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITY OF
MEETING HIM HERE.
MANSFIELD

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, NUCLEAR FUELS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TOKYO01048
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780032-0177
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780136/aaaabenj.tel
Line Count: 147
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 100a25e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3734217
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASAHI EVENING NEWS EDITORIAL ON INFCE
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, PARM, JA, INFCE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/100a25e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014